



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

January 12, 2007

For immediate release

- 1. Public input sought on rule proposal limiting manure use on soybean ground**
- 2. Producers with late manure management plans to be referred after one month**
- 3. New site index to simplify DNR Web site**

**PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON RULE PROPOSAL LIMITING
MANURE USE ON SOYBEAN GROUND**

MEDIA CONTACT: Gene Tinker, (515) 281-3103 or (563) 927-2640

DES MOINES – The DNR is seeking public input on a rule proposal that would limit liquid manure application on soybean ground.

The rule proposal calls for an upper limit of 100 pounds of nitrogen that would apply when liquid manure is applied to land that is currently planted to soybeans, or to land where the current crop has been harvested but will be planted to soybeans in the next crop season.

The limits would apply only to open feedlots and confinement feeding operations that are required to submit a nutrient management plan or a manure management plan, respectively. However, the limits would not apply starting on June 1 of each year, making an allowance for acres planned for corn or another crop that could not be planted.

Another provision of the rule would possibly ban the application of liquid manure on soybean ground at the end of five years. The Environmental Protection Commission will review scientific evidence six months prior to the ban to determine if the ban is necessary.

The following four public hearings are scheduled, including an additional hearing in Orange City.

- Feb. 6 at 5 p.m. in the Coralville Public Library, 1401 Fifth Street, Coralville
- Feb. 7 at 1 p.m. in the Wallace State Office Building, 5th Floor Conference Room, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines
- Feb. 8 at 10 a.m. in the Carroll County Courthouse, Courthouse Meeting Room, 114 E. 6th Street (HWY 30), Carroll
- Feb. 8 at 4 p.m. in the Orange City Public Library downstairs meeting room , 112 Albany SE, Orange City.

A copy of the rule proposal is available on the DNR Web site at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo/newrules.html>.

Written suggestions or comments can be made on the proposed amendments on or before February 8, 2007. Written comments should be sent to Gene Tinker, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034. Comments can also be submitted by fax to (515) 281-8895 or by email to gene.tinker@dnr.state.ia.us.

#

PRODUCERS WITH LATE MANURE MANAGEMENT PLANS TO BE REFERRED AFTER ONE MONTH

MEDIA CONTACT: Cindy Martens at (712) 262-4177.

DES MOINES – Animal producers who delay in submitting their manure management plans will face a legal referral one month after the date the plan was due.

“Some producers have delayed sending in MMP updates for more than two months after the due date, causing our staff to spend a lot of time tracking MMP status and sending out reminder notices,” said Cindy Martens, who coordinates MMP reviews for the DNR.

She added that the DNR looked at ways to streamline the process about two years ago.

“We worked with technical service providers and industry representatives to see what was workable and fair, and the solution we came up with was to refer producers for legal action at the end of the month the plan was due,” she said.

Producers who fail to submit the updates face enforcement actions with penalties usually in excess of \$3000. The DNR will also do annual on-site inspections of these facilities to ensure compliance and to provide technical assistance with the MMP.

“We’ve recently updated our data processing system, so that the reminder letters and referrals will be much easier to generate and to track,” Martens added.

Producers who submit incomplete plans will receive a letter from the DNR noting what information is missing. They will have 10 working days to submit the needed information before the DNR begins the referral process.

Generally, animal feeding operations that have the capacity to house 500 animal units in a confinement are required to have an MMP. That would be equivalent to 500 beef cattle, 1,250 finishing hogs or about 355 dairy cattle.

About 4,670 manure management plans must be updated every year, and complete plans are required once every four years or when a phosphorus index-based plan is due.

The MMP form and more information are available on the DNR Web site at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo/index.html>.

#

NEW SITE INDEX TO SIMPLIFY DNR WEBSITE

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has added an index tool to its Web site to allow visitors to browse topics alphabetically. The link to the index is on the left menu bar, second from the top.

The Web site, www.iowadnr.gov, has information on programs ranging from abandoned wells to wastewater treatment operators, and from hunting and fishing regulations to the state forest nursery. This new index is a way to help visitors to find what they need.